

Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force

June 24, 2019 - 5:30-7:00pm

Dutchess County Stabilization Center, 85 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 107, Poughkeepsie NY 12601

MINUTES

Task Force Members Present: Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development) (Co-coordinator), Steve MacAvery (Dutchess County Environmental Management Council) (Co-coordinator), Bridgette Anderson (Dutchess Community College), Gary Bassett (Village of Rhinebeck), Anthony Campagiorni (Central Hudson Gas & Electric), Audrey Friedrichsen (Scenic Hudson), Mark Figliozi (Town of Pleasant Valley), Jeff Irish (Sun Common), Vicky Kelly (Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies), Carolyn Klocker (Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County), Christopher Kroner (MASS Design Group // Hudson Valley Design Lab), Europa McGovern (Hudson Valley Regional Council), and Allan Page (A. Page & Associates, LLC).

Other Members Not Present: Dale Borchet (Dutchess County Legislature), Melissa Everett (Sustainable Hudson Valley), Jacob Lawrence (Arlington High School), and Brian Scoralick (DC Soil and Water Conservation District).

Welcome and Self-Introductions

Brad Barclay (DC Dept. of Planning & Development) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the Task Force introduced themselves.

Review and Adoption of Draft Minutes from the March 28, 2019 Task Force Meeting

The [March 28, 2019 meeting minutes](#) were reviewed and accepted by the committee with a minor edit. If interested, Brad encouraged the public to review the [Climate Smart Communities webpage](#) on the Dutchess County Government website for meeting minutes, future meeting dates, and other information related to the Task Force.

Report on Progress for Advancing Certification for Action Items already completed by the County

Brad explained that Dutchess County has already completed a variety of the Climate Smart Community (CSC) Action Items required for bronze-level certification. He noted that [Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County \(CCEDC\)](#) staff has been working with [DC Dept. of Planning & Development \(DCDPD\)](#) staff to submit documentation to the NYSCSC portal to get credit for these items. Brad added that there are now two deadlines per year to submit completed Action Items and the next deadline is July 5, 2019.

Brad introduced Michele Gluck from CCEDC, who gave an update on the current status of completed and uploaded Action Items into the portal. Highlights include:

- After a lot of information- and data-gathering, CCEDC/DCDPD staff has uploaded documentation for already completed Action Items, which total a potential 85 of the 120 points needed for bronze-level certification. The County is well-positioned for the July 5th deadline, as all of the Action Items require very little, if any, further action to complete submission into the portal.
- After the review of these Action Items is complete, the County will know exactly where it stands on points achieved towards certification and where additional documentation may be required. If required, the County will be able to submit information on additional completed Action Items prior to the next submission deadline in January 2020. At that time, we hope to achieve bronze-level certification.
- Michelle also noted that all of the future work completed by the various committees will only add to the potential future points that can be achieved for certification.
- Finally, Brad added that Michelle has compiled all of the information related to the completed/potential future Action Items into an Excel spreadsheet, which will be made available on the CSC SharePoint site soon.

****Note: At the time of the meeting, documentation had been uploaded/submitted for Action Items totaling 85 potential points of the 120 needed for bronze-level certification. Since then, DCDPD/CCEDC staff became aware of the fact that the NYSCSC program determined that only those communities with at least 120 potential points would be allowed to submit for official review. Based on this guidance, since the meeting, the County provided documentation on 23 Priority Actions, totaling 128 potential points for the July 5th submission deadline date.*

Committee Reports

All committees, with the exception of the Renewable and Energy Efficiency Committee, held an initial meeting to discuss their priorities for completing Priority Action Items (that were assigned to their respective committees), and also which items would be the focus of future efforts. The public was informed that interested committee volunteers are welcome to contact Brad Barclay at bbarclay@dutchessny.gov. In fact, a number of members of the public who attended the meeting were planning to volunteer. Highlights from each committee can be found below:

- **Renewables and Energy Efficiency Committee:** Reported that a Doodle Poll would be sent out for meeting planning in the near future.
- **Transportation Efficiencies Committee:** Reported that the committee meeting focused on documenting existing Dutchess County work on transportation issues. At the meeting, the [Dutchess County Transportation Council](#), the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Division of County Planning, provided a wealth of information related to this. It was noted that the committee will reach out to [Dutchess County Public Transit](#) for information regarding their programs. It was also noted that some Priority Action Items in this category may be able to be completed/submitted for credit by the January 2020 deadline. Another committee meeting will be scheduled for mid-July.
- **Greenhouse Gas Inventories & Climate Action Plans Committee:** Reported on committee work thus far, which included discussion regarding the development of a government operation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory, community GHG emission inventory, government operations climate action plan, and community climate action plan; despite the fact that some of the actions associated with these efforts may have been completed by the County, in general, the entirety of these actions would be new ventures for Dutchess County to undertake. Also, it was noted that a consolidated funding application (CFA) may be submitted to the State for a collaborative effort for up to nine (9) Dutchess County communities and the County itself, which would provide funding to develop a government operations GHG emissions inventory and a draft climate action plan; this effort would be led by the Hudson Valley Regional Council (HVRC) and ICLEI. A similar climate-focused project was recently completed in Ulster County (2018-2019) and was also facilitated by the HVRC. It was also noted that the committee voted in support of the grant proposal and to have the County be the lead applicant on this application, as did the Task Force at the June 24th meeting. The deadline for this application is July 26, 2019. Plans for application submission will be provided to County Executive Molinaro and County Legislature Chair Pulver for their consideration and approval.
- **Governmental Plans Committee:** Reported that committee efforts are focused on documenting current efforts by the [Dutchess County Solid Waste Management Division](#), as well as those included in the [County's Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) to qualify for a number of Priority Actions. It was noted that the County may be able to receive credit for its 2013 local solid waste management plan, [Rethinking Waste](#). The plan is more than five (5) years old, which is the general requirement for receiving credit. In the event that credit cannot be received for the 2013 plan, the committee discussed that it may be an appropriate time to update the plan and re-submit for credit after completion. It may also be beneficial for the [2010 County Natural Resource Inventory](#) to be updated in the near future, but credit can be submitted for the current plan. Also, Supervisor Mark Figliozzi mentioned that the Town of Pleasant Valley is a collection site for e-waste for any and all County municipalities; items can be disposed of at the transfer station of Sherow Rd. Another committee meeting will be scheduled soon.
- **Outreach and Education Committee:** Reported that committee discussion focused on how the committee would operate, which could mostly be in a public relations capacity. As such, the committee would like to collaborate with the other committees, and the Task Force as a whole, to enhance this mission. Several formats for outreach were discussed, including a local climate action website and engaging in social media; more information to follow on these and will be documented in a Google document. This document will also

eventually be shared with the other committees and the Task Force. Another committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

Brad thanked all of the committee chairs for volunteering to serve in this role and noted that he looks forward to hearing the future progress of each committee.

Discussion of DCCSC Task Force SharePoint Site

The group discussed this information-sharing tool, particularly the problems experienced, and additions requested by Task Force members. Brad added that the County is committed to making this a helpful and valuable communication tool, so any feedback will be beneficial. Highlights from this discussion include:

- All Task Force members have successfully logged onto the site.
- The group agreed that notifications would be helpful, especially when any new documents/events are added to the site. Europa suggested that a tutorial could take place to help Task Force members set up this function.
- Many Task Force members agreed that the site was not intuitive and difficult to navigate.
- Brad also mentioned that the current set-up of the site allows anyone to edit the site; for ease and simplicity, we will instead make it so that only “owners” of the site will be able to edit.
- Eoin inquired if a current status bar indicating the progression of completed Action Items would be helpful; the group agreed that it would.
- Task Force members would also like to be able to more easily access the individual committee webpages to review current agendas, work progress, and any other pertinent information. Brad added that the intent is to be able to give the committee chairs more autonomy over their individual committee pages, but that may take some more time to research and complete. The role of volunteers on these sites is also still being determined. Vicky added that it would be helpful to be able to add notes/agendas on committee meeting to these individual sites.
- Task Force members would like to be able to upload items (documents, events, etc.) to the site.

Additionally, Brad noted that anyone who signed up on the public sign-in sheet and checked off to receive CSC updates will be added to [DutchessDelivery](#), which is the County’s public email notification system. This will allow participants to receive emails when information regarding CSC is added to the website. Also, CSCTF meeting information will be included on the [County’s Consolidated Calendar](#).

Public Comment

Legislator Rebecca Edwards inquired if there are any ways that the County Legislature can advocate on behalf of the Task Force in relation to the 2020 budget process. It was discussed that the intent of the proposed CFA application is to cover any future additional funds that may be needed to carry out implementation of the CSC program.

City Administrator Natalie Quinn stated that the City of Poughkeepsie is very interested in being engaged in the Task Force and the various committees. The City took a Climate Smart Communities pledge and is looking into next steps, including a CFA application through Climate Smart Communities for a comprehensive plan/zoning update.

Next Steps

Brad announced that he will send out a Doodle Poll for the next meeting during the week of September 23rd.

Respectfully submitted:

Shelby Frangk, Planner

Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development